Survey of limestone in Nagaland

1276. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India has made any survey of Nagaland to find the existence of limestone;

(b) if so, what are the findings, with particular reference to the location where they are available and quantum and quality of the deposits available there; and

(c) whether the grade of stone is good enough for locating a cement factory or an Asbestos Unit in Nagaland?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINES IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir. Geological Survey of India has not made any recent survey for limestone as such. However, the Directorate of Geology and Mining, Nagaland has carried out detailed survey for limestone in Nagaland.

(b) Occurrences of economic significance of limestone located are:—

(i) Nimi deposit 111.07 million tonnes limestone with 52.66 per cent calcium oxide in Tuensang district; and

(ii) Waziho in phek district 0.31 million tonnes with 48.56 per cent calcium oxide.

(c) The grade of limestone is suitable for producing cement.

Land for setting up of hospitals in Delhi

1277. SHRI S. S. AHULWALIA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the land required for setting up some additional peripheral hospitals in Delhi has not been made available so far by D.D.A. to the Delhi Administration; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(b) by when the land is likely to be made available to the Delhi Administration for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) No request from the Delhi Administration for allotment of land for setting up peripheral Hospitals in Delhi has been received by the Delhi Developmen Authority.

(b) In view of above, question does not arise.

Shortage of PIG iron

1278. SHRI YASHWANT SINGH: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a great shortage of iron in the country;

(b) what is the total production of pig iron in the country and the total demand thereof;

(c) the quantity of pig iron which was imported during the last financial year and that which is likely to be imported during the current financial year and it cost of in foreign exchange; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to meet the demand through indigenous production?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Production and demand for pig iron vary from year to year. The production and demand for 1989-90 are estimated at 1.5 million tonnes and 1.75 million tonnes respectively.

(c) During 1988-89, the actual import by MMTC was about 1.66 lakh tonnes costing about Rs. 38 crores. For the year 1989-90, action has been initiated for import of about 2.8 lakh tonnes of pig iron for foundry and casting units costing about Rs. 90 crores as per the current indicative prices. In addition, MMTC is likely to import 2 lakh tonnes of basic grade pig iron from USSR, costing about Rs. 45 crores.

(d) The Public Sector Steel Plants have been asked to step up the production of pig iron in the current year to meet any shortage. Manufacture of pig iron has been delicensed. The private Sector is being encouraged to invest in pig iron production.

Allotment of rice to Tamil Nadu

1279. SHRI PASUMPON THA KIRUTTINAN: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of rice required by the Tamil Nadu from the Central pool;

(b) whether the requirement of that State is being fully met; if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Tamil Nadu Government has approached the Central Government to permit them to procure rice from the surplus States and also to import rice to meet their immediate reuirement; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) As against its monthly demand of 80,000 tonnes, Tamil Nadu is at present being allocated 40,000 tonnes of rice per month. Allocations of foodgrains from the central pool are only supplemental to the open market availability and are made on a month to month basis taking into account the overall availability of stocks in the central pool, relative needs of various states, market availability and other related factors.

(c) and (d) The Tamilnadu Government had requested for permission to make open market purchase of 3 lakh tonnes of rice from Andhra Pradesh in April, 1989. They have been permitted to purchase 1.5 lakh tonnes of levy free rice from the open market in Andhra Pradesh. No request from the Tamilnadu government has been received for import of rice.

Requirement of potash

1280. SHRI PASUMPON THA KIRUTTINAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the requirements of potash in our country;

(b) the requirements met with indigenous production and that being imported, with the names of the countries; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange being spent annually for import of potash?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILISERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) The estimated consumption (requirement) of potash in the country during the year 1987-88 and 1988-89 was 15.38 lakh tonnes and 18.97 lakh MT of material (MOP) respectively.

(b) The entire requirement of potassic fertilisers is met by imports as there are no known commercially viable sources of this material in the country. 13.4 lakh tonnes and 16.260 lakh tonnes of potash was imported during 1987-88 and 1988-89 respectively. Potash was imported from Canada, France, GDR, Holland, Jordan, USSR, W. Germany & Norway during 1987-88 and 1988-89.